



# Maryland Smart Energy Communities

An informational webinar for local governments

February 18, 2013 at 11am

Hosted by the Maryland Energy Administration and the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center

**To participate, please call: (951) 266-6131, Access Code: 422-985-940**

# Facilitators

- ▣ Lauren Urbanek, Program Manager, MEA
- ▣ Joanne Throwe, Director, EFC
- ▣ Sean Williamson, EFC
- ▣ Liz Fried, EFC

# Program Overview and Goals

- Adopt a set of policies related to energy efficiency, renewable energy, and transportation petroleum reduction for local government buildings or fleets.
- Become eligible for grant funding to be used for energy-related projects in your community.

# Eligibility

- ▣ Any Maryland local government:
  - ▣ Town
  - ▣ City
  - ▣ County

# Incentives

- ▣ Becoming a Smart Energy Community will result in:
  - ▣ The prospect of grant funding
  - ▣ Reduced utility and fuel expenses
  - ▣ Support of local sustainability initiatives
  - ▣ Greenhouse gas emissions reduction
  - ▣ Statewide recognition as a leader in energy and sustainability
  - ▣ Technical assistance from MEA and UMD

# Participation Requirements

- Two of three policies must be adopted:
  - Energy efficiency
  - Renewable energy
  - Transportation petroleum reduction

# Energy Efficiency Policy

- Establish an electricity consumption baseline and develop a plan with the goal to **reduce per square foot electricity consumption of the city/town/county buildings 15%** within 5 years of the baseline year.
- Deliverables:
  - Develop baseline estimate of building electricity consumption
  - Adopt a policy committing local government to 15% reduction
  - Put in place a comprehensive Energy Reduction Plan
  - Annual reporting

# Renewable Energy Policy

- Reduce conventional centralized electricity generation serving a local government's buildings by **meeting 20% of those buildings' electricity demand with distributed, renewable energy generation** by 2022.
- Deliverables:
  - Develop baseline estimate of building electricity consumption
  - Pass a policy committing to 20% renewable electricity by 2022
  - Put in place a Renewable Energy Action Plan
  - Annual reporting



# Transportation Petroleum Reduction Policy

- Establish a petroleum consumption baseline for all local government vehicles, and put in place a comprehensive program designed to **reduce the baseline petroleum consumption by 20 percent** within 5 years of the baseline year.
- Deliverables:
  - Develop a baseline of fleet efficiency
  - Pass a policy committing to a fuel consumption reduction of 20%
  - Put in place a Petroleum Consumption Reduction Plan
  - Annual Reporting

# Application Timeline

- ▣ Letter of Intent – **Due March 1, 2013**
- ▣ Application Form – **Due April 5, 2013**
  - ▣ MEA Review Process
- ▣ Approval and Implementation Agreements (April)
- ▣ Policies adopted, baselines created, and plans written by December 31, 2013
- ▣ Grant funding for project disbursed – Jan - June 2014
  - ▣ Projects must be complete and invoiced by June 2014

# Application Review

- MEA will evaluate applications based on:
  - A local government's capacity to create baselines and plans and pass the appropriate policies within the timeframe
  - Ability to commit staff to this initiative while passing the policies, complete the baseline/planning activities, and complete grant activities
  - Past experience and performance with MEA programs (if applicable)
  - Existing policies related to energy, environmental matters, and sustainability
  - Participation in other energy or sustainability initiatives, such as Sustainable Maryland Certified
  - Application completeness

# Technical Assistance



- The Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland will be working with communities to:
  - Answer questions and assist local governments with the application process
  - Guide local governments through the policy process
  - Collect and organize data and develop baseline estimates
  - Formulate plans for meeting goals
  - Identify and complete renewable energy, energy efficiency, and transportation projects

# Project Grants

- Available funding - \$3.5 million
  - Additional \$700,000 available for projects serving low and moderate income households
- Grant amounts will be determined by a formula that factors in a community's population size and the number of applicants.
- We anticipate grant amounts will be between \$20,000 (a small town) and \$500,000 (a large county).
- Funds are primarily meant to be spent on implementing energy-related projects (which must be approved by MEA).
  - However, communities will be allowed to use either 20% or \$30,000 (whatever is lower) of their grant funding to recover administrative costs related to passing the policies (including creating baselines and plans).

# Frequently Asked Questions

- What type of local legislation is required?
  - The intent of the program is for your local government to commit to working towards energy efficiency, renewable energy, and petroleum reduction goals. We understand that the way local governments approach this process may vary. MEA will work with participants to determine which method is most appropriate, based on local charters and procedures.
- What if my community has already adopted one or more of these policies?
  - If you have existing policies related to energy efficiency, renewable energy, and/or transportation petroleum reduction, you may be able to apply them to the program. MEA will work with local governments on a case-by-case basis to determine if existing policies qualify.
- We're interested, but aren't sure our local government can pass policies in 2013. Can we still get involved?
  - Yes. Interested communities can get started with technical assistance in the first year of the program, though they will not be eligible for funding. Communities interested in obtaining only technical assistance must still complete the letter of intent and application this year. The application will instruct communities to specify (by checking a box) whether they intend to pass the policies in the first year.

# Contact Information

- To learn more, contact Lauren Urbanek:
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[energy.maryland.gov/Govt/SmartEnergyCommunities](http://energy.maryland.gov/Govt/SmartEnergyCommunities)

Thank you for attending!